

January 25, 2012

Candidate Selection Committee
c/o Susan Fox, Executive Director
Legislative Services Division

Re: Political Practices Vacancy

I am interested in serving as Montana's next Commissioner of Political Practices and submit this letter of interest and resume to apply for the position.

I am a fair and impartial person with personal integrity and a strong work ethic. I have a wealth of background in regulatory and government relations generally, having served in management positions as an attorney for public and private employers. I have strong advocacy skills, analytical and decision making strengths, supervisory experience and the proven ability to work with others.

I have worked with most of the Political Practices staff over the years and have genuine appreciation and respect for their work. It is a very busy office, sometimes politically contentious, with a need for streamlined and efficient operations that assure even-handed treatment of the clients it serves. I believe the Commissioner has a particular obligation to assure that the conduct of the office promotes public confidence that the law is being carried out fairly, efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, the Commissioner should advocate for more enforcement resources so as to help ensure effective and expeditious resolution of matters coming before the office.

The attached resume summarizes my legal career in public and private sectors and provides all necessary contact information. I am confident that my professional background and personal temperament are well suited to this position, and I look forward to providing further information to assist the Committee in its selection process.

Sincerely,



Susan C. Witte
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Helena, MT 59624
cblscw@mt.net
(406) 431-1545 (cell)
(406) 449-3180 (home)

SUSAN C. WITTE

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Summary of Qualifications

- Strong personal communications skills, personal integrity, solid work ethic.
- Faithful, fair and effective application of laws and regulations.
- Ability to analyze and interpret legal and regulatory requirements and promote understanding by others.
- Ability to maintain focus in an environment of highly competing interests and perspectives.
- Ability to interact appropriately and effectively with others, whether subordinates, peers or superiors.
- Attorney admitted to Montana state and federal courts.

Professional Experience

Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.; Allegiance Life & Health Insurance Company, Inc., Missoula and Helena, Montana
Vice President and General Counsel 2004 – 2011

- Responsible as member of senior management for day-to-day oversight of legal matters, compliance functions, and strategic planning necessary to realize stability and business growth in self-funded and fully insured health plan markets.
- Managed government relations with positive results in legislative and regulatory forums.
- Prepared legal documents and provided business plan guidance to create competitive domestic for-profit stock insurer that sells health insurance in Montana.
- Carried out responsibilities for identification of legal and marketing needs, training of staff, and communication of internal solutions to meet regulatory requirements, for establishment of effective management policies and agreements governing fully insured business resulting in internal cost-savings, efficiencies, and positive market reputation.
- Effectively led drafting and conducted final legal review of individual and group health insurance policies and amendments resulting in timely regulatory approval of products for sale in the Montana market.
- Provided sound guidance for corporate compliance of the company's boards, due diligence and form filings pertaining to acquisitions of company's businesses and holding company status, skillful negotiation of medical provider, facility and pharmacy agreements, consulting agreements, intellectual property, licensing

and IT support agreements, general service agreements, confidentiality and non-competition agreements.

- Hired and directed the work of outside legal counsel for defense of litigation pertaining to company business.
- Known for effective editing of company newsletters, analyses of health care reform and other legislation, and employee benefits advice for dissemination to health plan clients.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana, Helena, Montana
Associate General Counsel, Legal Department 2002 – 2004

Provided legal representation and guidance to claims, marketing, compliance, government relations, other party liability, medical review, member appeals, member services, healthcare services and underwriting departments within locally operated non-profit Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan. Served as counsel for identification of legislation and administrative rules with analysis of company impacts, tracked progress of legislation, prepared amendments and rules comments. Advised internal risk management team on risk and litigation matters. Negotiated, reviewed and wrote contracts for provider relations, IT support and charitable foundation business needs contracts. Assisted in management of legal department, supervised legal interns and paralegals, provided analysis for procurement of legal time and case tracking system.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana, Helena, Montana
Director, Government and Public Relations 1998 – 2002

Directed programs to enhance community relationships through its charitable foundation and regulatory affairs, legislative and executive branch lobbying and plan representation within locally operated non-profit Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan. Collaborated closely with senior management to identify and address internal communication needs and promote positive community perceptions. Edited and produced internal company newsletter. Supervised personnel and managed budget of Government and Public Relations Department, resulting in positive legislative outcomes and successful fundraising and presence for the company's charitable foundation programs, including administration of children's health insurance program and health screenings programs targeted for low income Montanans.

State Compensation Insurance Fund, Helena, Montana
Legal Counsel 1993 – 1998

Litigated disputed workers' compensation claims before Montana's Workers' Compensation Court, Supreme Court and Department of Labor and Industry as legal counsel for Montana's state administered workers' compensation insurer. Legal work involved researching claims history, analysis and application of relevant case law, drafting and filing legal pleadings, preparing claims examiners, rehabilitation experts

and medical providers for trial, formulating written discovery, conducting depositions of claimants, witnesses, and medical providers, and negotiation with mediators and opposing counsel to successfully resolve contested issues. Developed solicitation documents and contracts to purchase services. Advised underwriting and audit specialists on policy issues, pursued litigation to collect policyholder debts.

Montana State Auditor's Office, Insurance and Securities Commissioner, Helena, Montana Chief Legal Counsel 1989 -1992

Served as top legal and legislative management advisor to elected State Auditor, provided legal advice and legislative direction on state and federal regulatory responsibilities, State Land Board issues, litigation, and overall office administration. Managed operations of legal department including oversight of regulatory insurance and securities enforcement actions. Promoted cohesive team effort by working closely with management team and colleagues to effectively and proactively identify and manage issues pertaining to regulation of the insurance and securities industry in Montana while balancing political sensitivities related to the elected nature of the position. Drafted insurance rules, legislation and amendments. Selected by State Auditor to serve as National Association of Insurance Commissioner's representative on various committees, guest lecturer in securities forums.

**Montana State Auditor's Office, Insurance Department, Helena, Montana
Staff Attorney 1988 -1989**

**Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry and Hoven, P.C., Helena, Montana
Associate Counsel 1986 -1988**

Education

B.A., History-Political Science, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 1979
J.D., Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C. 1986

Other

Volunteer, Helena Food Share and Montana Historical Society
Past Board Member, Montana Comprehensive Health Association
Past Advisory Board Member, American Benefits Council
State Bar of Montana pro bono lobbyist
Past Advisory Board Member, First Interstate Bank, Helena Branch
Past Director, Helena Education Foundation
Past Member, Montana Book Award Committee

References Available Upon Request

Fox, Susan

From: mmilburn@mcn.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Fw: Susan Witte resume - MT Commissioner of Political Practices
Attachments: SUSANCOPresume.doc; COPlatter.doc

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Cary Lund & Susan Witte <cblscw@mt.net>
To: mmilburn@mcn.net
Sent: Wed, Jan 25, 2012 16:45:01 GMT+00:00
Subject: Susan Witte resume - MT Commissioner of Political Practices

Rep. Milburn – thanks for the conversation last week. Here is my resume and letter of interest to apply for Commissioner of Political Practices. I am up for the challenge.

Thanks for any help.

Susan C. Witte
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(406) 431-1545 (cell)